



The Mardi Gras Queens of New Orleans



Purpose

Five students of African-American history traveled to New Orleans to interview Mardi Gras Indian Queens, the female leaders of an African-American parading tradition that originated in the 19th century as an alternative to mainstream Mardi Gras. They worked with a filmmaker and their professor to create a documentary that highlights the role of women in perpetuating a tradition that combats marginalization and creates community cohesiveness.

Impact

Interviewing queens and crafting the film provided students a deeply engaging service learning opportunity focusing on cultural preservation while expanding their skills and their knowledge of African-American and women's history.

The students received grants to pursue independent research on the Mardi Gras Indian queens, which they intend to present at conferences on campus and elsewhere, increasing their academic profiles.

The film will be screened at the downtown Newark FAMFEST and potentially at the 2016 Columbus campus film festival and elsewhere, bringing attention to a unique and overlooked culture and women's crucial role in its preservation.



Contact

Virginia H. Cope
Associate Professor,
English Department
Associate Dean,
Newark campus
cope.38@osu.edu



Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

Tiyi Morris
Assistant Professor
African-American & African Studies
Morris.730@osu.edu

Community Partners Involved

The Mardi Gras Indian Council
The Mardi Gras Queens Council
Michael Yearling, Yearling Pictures

